CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for classifying a remote procedure call from a client system that initiates connections to a remote server using a client and underlying remote procedure call transport call, the method comprising:

detecting when a connection carrying high value data for the remote procedure call is created;

using a side channel to communicate flow information associated with the detected connection to a classifying router, the flow information including a port number associated with the communication; and

incorporating the flow information into a differentiated services classification subsystem of the classifying router by associating a quality of service level to the detected connection in accordance with the flow information.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises:

providing an Application Programming Interface (API) to calling applications;

detecting when applications call the API; and

executing a remote procedure routine based on a call by an application.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

executing comprises accessing a remote procedure call API; and

the API provided to calling applications includes functionality duplicative of remote procedure call API functionality.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

executing comprises accessing a remote procedure call API; and

the API provided to calling applications presents an interface duplicative of the remote procedure call API to calling applications.

5. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

obtaining flow information from an application call to the API; and

providing the flow information to the classifying router via the side channel.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the side channel is implemented as Common Gateway Interface (CGI) script from the client to the router.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein incorporating includes:

using the flow information to determine a differentiated services classification for the connection; and

marking traffic delivered to the connection by the classifying router based on the classification.

10. (original) The method claim 1, further comprising:

detecting the identify of the client making the remote procedure call, the flow information further containing this detected identify.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for classifying a remote procedure call from a client system that initiates connections to a remote server using a client and underlying remote procedure call transport code, the apparatus comprising:

a module configured to detect when a connection carrying high value data for the remote procedure call is created;

a module configured to use a side channel to communicate flow information associated with the detected connection to a classifying router, wherein the flow information includes a port number associated with the remote procedure call; and

a module configured to incorporate the flow information into a differentiated services classification subsystems of the classifying router by associating a quality of service level to the detected connection in accordance with the flow information.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the detecting module is further configured to:

provide an Application Programming Interface (API) to calling applications;

detect when applications call the API; and

execute a remote procedure routine based on a call by an application.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:

the detecting module is further configured to access a remote procedure call API; and

the API provided to calling applications includes functionality duplicative of remote procedure call API functionality.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:

the detecting module is further configured to access a remote procedure call API; and

the API provided to calling applications presents an interface duplicative of the remote procedure call API to calling applications.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the side channel module is further configured to:

obtain flow information from an application call to the API; and

provide the flow information to the classifying router via the side channel.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP)

addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the side channel is implemented as a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) script from the client to the router.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim11, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the incorporating module is further configured to:

use the flow information to determine a differentiated services classification for the connection; and

mark traffic delivered to the connection by the classifying router based on the classification.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the side channel module is further configured to detect the identity of the client making the remote procedure call, the flow information further containing this detected identity.